VIDEO CONTENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INCLUDING AN INTERACTIVE KIOSK, A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC STORAGE DEVICE, AND A SET-TOP BOX

Abstract of the Disclosure

5   A portable electronic storage device (wallet) is configured to hold digitally encoded video content on a disk drive. The wallet is configured to be substantially incompatible with industry standard computer systems in its external characteristics, connections, and communication protocols. A user connects the wallet to a publicly located compatible interactive kiosk that stores several encoded programs (content

10   units), such as feature-length films. The user selects content units, and the kiosk copies the selections onto the wallet. At home, the user connects the wallet to a compatible set-top box that presents the content units as an output signal to a television set. The set-top box accumulates information related to the use of the video content units (content use data), such as how much of a content unit has been viewed and/or how

15   many times it has been viewed. The set-top box then writes the content use data to the wallet. The content use data is read by the kiosk the next time the user connects the wallet to the kiosk.

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